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MEDIEVAL SPAWN®

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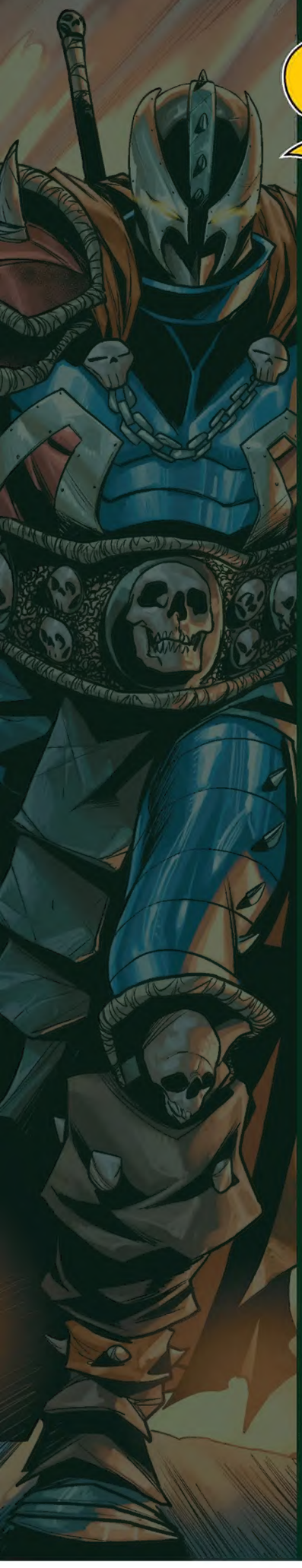

MEDIEVAL SPAWN

SPAWN'S UNIVERSE 92 25

SCRIPT/PLOT
RORY McCONVILLE

ART
MARCO ITRI

COLOR
ULISES ARREOLA

LETTERING
ANDWORLD DESIGN

COVER ARTISTS
FRANCESCO MATTINA
TODD McFARLANE

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
TODD McFARLANE

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
THOMAS HEALY

Publishing Coordinator
YVETTE ARTEAGA

Production Artists
RYAN KEIZER
ZABRIEL KENNEDY
IMANI DAVIS

Publisher for
Image Comics/
Chief Creative Officer
ERIC STEPHENSON

SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE

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ENGLAND, 1443
IT WAS ONLY BY CHANCE THAT WE FIRST CAME ACROSS RICHARD.
WE HAD BEEN RIDING THROUGH TREACHEROUS CONDITIONS FOR THREE DAYS WHEN CUTHBERT GLIMPSED A SPECK ON THE HORIZON AND ASKED TO INVESTIGATE.
WHEN WE FOUND HIM, THE BOY WAS HALF-FROZEN AND BARELY ABLE TO SPEAK.
TO THIS DAY, I STILL WONDER HOW MUCH MISERY COULD'VE BEEN AVERTED IF CUTHBERT HADN'T SPOTTED HIM THAT MORNING.

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
MUCH BETTER, MY LORD. THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD.
THERE IS NO NEED FOR TITLES, RICHARD. YOU MAY CALL ME, JOHN. NOW, TELL US, WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE ALONE?
I WAS LOOKING FOR HELP. MY VILLAGE HAS BEEN OVERRUN BY PLAGUE.
EVERYONE THERE HAS BEEN TURNED INTO DEMONS.
YET YOU ESCAPED.
I WAS LUCKY.
"THAT MORNING, PART OF MY FATHER'S FLOCK HAD GONE MISSING. I HAD BEEN SENT TO LOOK FOR THEM.
"WHEN I RETURNED, THE VILLAGE HAD BEEN *TRANSFORMED.*"

I TRIED TO FIND OTHER SURVIVORS BUT I COULDN'T GET CLOSE ENOUGH. THOSE DEMONS WERE EVERYWHERE.
I THOUGHT THE BEST THING TO DO WAS TO SEARCH FOR HELP.
THE NEAREST VILLAGE IS DAYS AWAY THOUGH AND I FEAR THE STORM HAS LED ME ASTRAY.
AND BEFORE THIS PLAGUE DESCENDED, HAD YOU NOTICED ANYTHING UNUSUAL IN YOUR VILLAGE?
THERE WAS A KNIGHT WHO ARRIVED THE NIGHT BEFORE.
I DIDN'T SEE HIM, BUT I OVERHEARD MY PARENTS TALKING ABOUT HIM.
IT'S FITZROY. IT HAS TO BE.

WHO?
HIS NAME IS SIR GEOFFREY FITZROY,
"FIVE NIGHTS AGO, HE BROKE INTO THE BLACK VAULT, A FORTRESS THAT HOUSES ITEMS OF GREAT MAGICAL POWER. IN THE COURSE OF THIS, HE KILLED SEVERAL GUARDS AND STOLE A CURSED AMULET."
WE HAVE BEEN PURSUING HIM SINCE THAT NIGHT, BUT THE STORM HAS SLOWED OUR PROGRESS.
BUT WHY... WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH MY VILLAGE?
I DO NOT KNOW BUT I **INTEND** TO FIND OUT.
WE MUST MOVE QUICKLY.

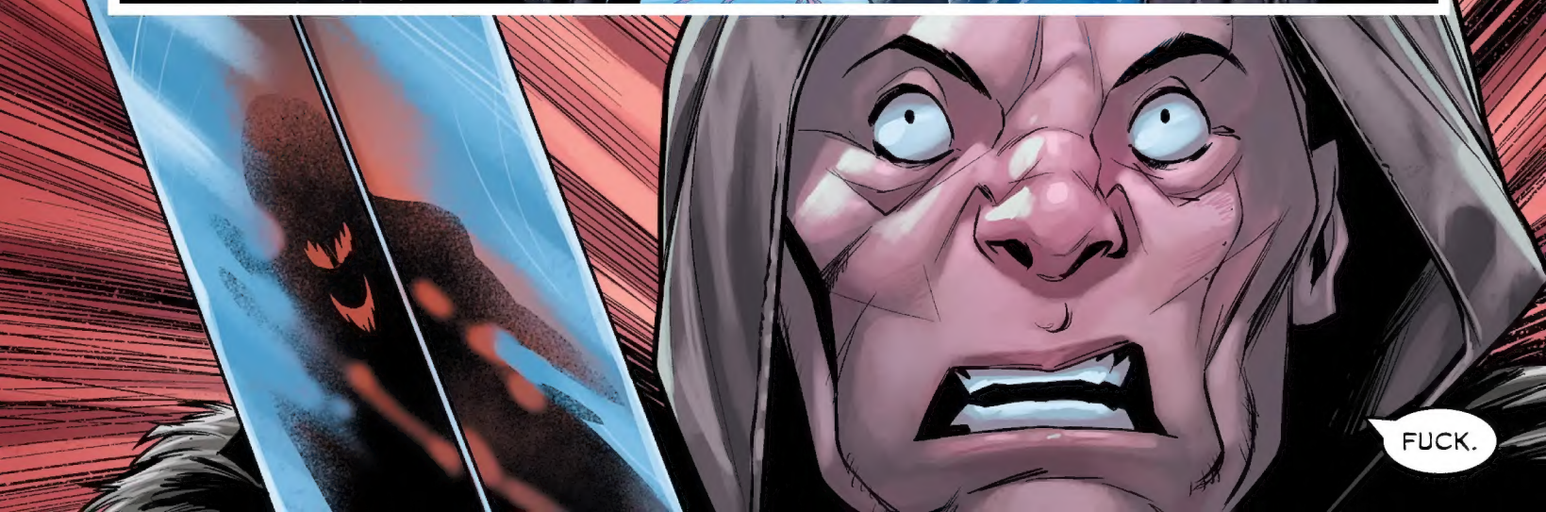
I DO NOT MEAN TO SPEAK OUT OF TURN, BUT I DO NOT RECOGNISE YOUR COLOURS...
WHOSE BANNER DO YOU FIGHT UNDER?
THE COLORS ARE MY OWN AND I DO NOT FIGHT UNDER ANYONE'S BANNER.
BUT DO YOU NOT HAVE A LORD? WHAT ABOUT THE KING?
I SERVED THE KING ONCE, BUT I WAS RELEASED FROM MY DUTIES.
NOW I SIMPLY GO WHERE I AM NEEDED. I FIGHT–
UP AHEAD!
GOOD GOD!

IT'S GROWN EVEN WORSE...
DO YOU THINK THERE ARE ANY SURVIVORS?
I FEAR NOT.
I DO NOT KNOW WHAT AWAITS US INSIDE. I WILL NOT HOLD IT AGAINST ANY OF YOU IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO JOIN ME.

IF SIGHTS LIKE THIS COULD SHAKE THEIR RESOLVE, THEY WOULD'VE LEFT A LONG TIME AGO.
BE READY FOR ANYTHING.

CONVINCING RICHARD TO STAY BEHIND WITH THE HORSES WAS NO EASY TASK, BUT EVENTUALLY HE RELENTED.
I COULD UNDERSTAND THE BOY'S FRUSTRATION, OF COURSE.
HAD IT BEEN MY HOME, **MY FAMILY,** I WOULD'VE WANTED TO AVENGE THEM.

YOU SMELL THAT, CUTHBERT? LIKE THE DEVIL'S PISS--


FUCK.

HSSSSSSS
POOR SHERMAN.
HOW MANY BATTLES HAD WE FOUGHT TOGETHER?
HOW MANY NIGHTS HAD HE KEPT US ENTERTAINED AROUND THE CAMPFIRE?
HE DESERVED BETTER.
THEY ALL DID.
HSSSSS
HSSSSS
WATCH OUT!

RICHARD HAD TOLD US THAT 200 PEOPLE HAD LIVED IN HIS VILLAGE.
JOHN?
THERE IS NOTHING HUMAN LEFT IN THESE CREATURES...
SHOW THEM NO MERCY!
TWO HUNDRED FUTURES ALL SWEPT AWAY WITHOUT A THOUGHT.
WHAT A WASTE.

NO MATTER THE OUTCOME, I ALREADY KNEW THAT THERE WOULD NEVER BE ANOTHER VILLAGE HERE.
THE ROT HAD SET IN TOO DEEPLY. THE LAND ITSELF BLIGHTED BY DARK MAGIC, RENDERING IT UNINHABITABLE.
NOTHING WOULD EVER GROW THERE AGAIN.
NO ONE WOULD EVER CALL IT HOME.

IT WOULD BE A GRAVE AND NOTHING MORE UNTIL THE END TIMES...
MORE INCOMING!
PRESS ON, JOHN. WE'LL HOLD THEM AS LONG AS WE CAN.

FZAp
PLEASE STAY WHERE YOU ARE, GOOD KNIGHT. I DON'T WISH TO HURT ANYONE ELSE, BUT YOU CANNOT INTERFERE.
UNLESS... HAVE THE SCREAMS DRAWN YOU HERE AS WELL?

WHAT?
THE SCREAMS.
AM I REALLY THE ONLY ONE CURSED TO HEAR THEM? IT IS NOT FAIR! I'VE SEEN MANY DO AS BAD AS I, AND MANY MORE DO EVEN WORSE.
FITZROY, WHAT ARE YOU–
EVERYTHING I DID WAS IN SERVICE OF THE KING.
"MONTHS AGO, I FOUND MY MIND BESIEGED BY THE SCREAMS OF ALL THOSE WHO'D DIED BY MY HAND, AND SINCE THAT DAY, I HAVE HAD NO PEACE."
AND YOUR SOLUTION IS TO ADD 200 LIVES TO THAT TALLY?
IT WAS A NECESSARY SACRIFICE, BUT ABRAXIS HAS ASSURED ME THEY WILL ALL BE REVIVED UPON HIS RETURN.
WHO IS ABRAXIS?

MY MASTER. HE IS A GOD WHO HAS BEEN IMPRISONED IN ANOTHER REALM FOR CENTURIES.
HE CAME TO ME IN A VISION AND PROMISED TO UNDO MY MISTAKES IN RETURN FOR HIS FREEDOM.
YOU SEE, THIS VILLAGE SITS AT A POINT WHERE THE BARRIERS BETWEEN REALMS ARE WEAK...
"...AND WITH THE AMULET'S POWER, I WAS ABLE TO OPEN A PORTAL BETWEEN OUR WORLD AND ABRAXIS' PRISON."

YOU FOOL! YOU'VE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'VE DONE.
I TOLD YOU, ALL OF THIS WILL BE FIXED.
ONCE ABRAXIS ARRIVES, HE WILL RESTORE EVERY LIFE I HAVE TAKEN.
HE WILL SILENCE THE SCREAMS.

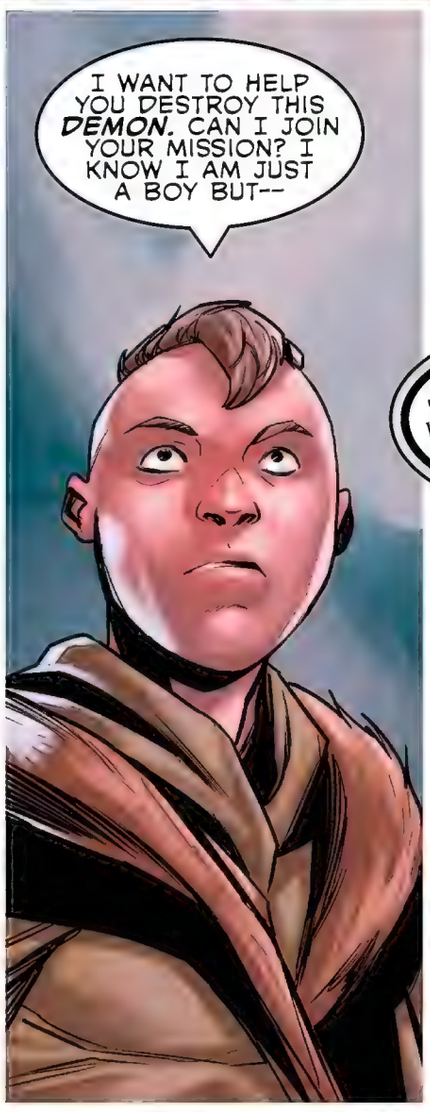
YOU'VE BEEN DECEIVED, FITZROY.
AS SOON AS THE PORTAL OPENED, YOUR MASTER WOULD'VE BEEN RELEASED...
...AND ONCE YOU HAD SERVED HIS PURPOSE, HE'D **ABANDON** YOU.
NO!!

ABRAXIS WILL FIX THIS.
HE WILL FREE ME! HE WILL--
THWIP

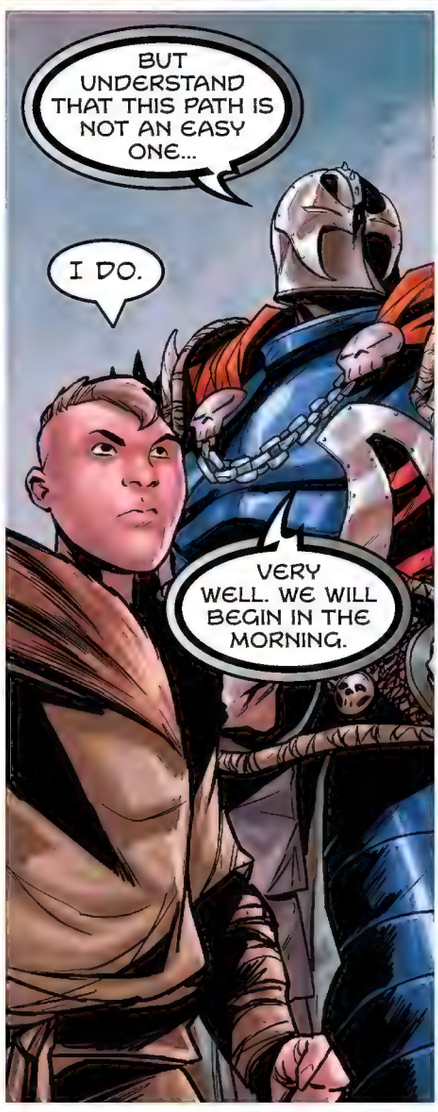
ARGGHHHH!
RICHARD WOULD LATER TELL ME THAT HE HAD ONLY WAITED A FEW MOMENTS BEFORE FOLLOWING US.
WHILE WE BATTLED THE CREATURES, HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO SNEAK THROUGH THE VILLAGE UNDETECTED.
I...I'M SORRY. I JUST WANTED TO BE FREE OF THE SCREAMS. JUST FOR A MOMENT...
I UNDERSTAND, FITZROY, I HEAR THEM TOO...
WE ARE BOTH OF US DAMNED...

...BUT THE DAMNED DO NOT GET TO FORGET THEIR MISTAKES.
FITZROY'S DEATH BROUGHT AN END TO THE HORRORS THAT HAD LAID WASTE TO RICHARD'S VILLAGE.
YET I KNEW THIS WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF OUR JOURNEY. THE HUNT FOR ABRAXIS STILL LAY AHEAD OF US...

...BUT FIRST WE NEEDED TO MOURN OUR DEAD.


I WANT TO HELP YOU DESTROY THIS DEMON. CAN I JOIN YOUR MISSION? I KNOW I AM JUST A BOY BUT--

YOU HAVE MORE THAN PROVED YOURSELF TODAY. IF IT IS WHAT YOU WISH, I WOULD GLADLY TRAIN YOU AS MY SQUIRE.


BUT UNDERSTAND THAT THIS PATH IS NOT AN EASY ONE...
I DO.
VERY WELL. WE WILL BEGIN IN THE MORNING.

I SPOKE TO FITZROY OF MISTAKES, AND INDEED, ACROSS MY LONG LIFE I HAVE MADE MANY.
FEW HAUNT ME AS MUCH AS MY DECISION TO TRAIN RICHARD THOUGH.

IF I HAD KNOWN WHAT WAS TO COME...
...ALL THE PAIN AND SUFFERING THAT DECISION WOULD UNLEASH...
...I WOULD'VE SNUFFED THE LIFE OUT OF THE BOY THERE AND THEN.

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